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INFO RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN PRIORITY 4193  
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PRIORITY 3986

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TAGS: [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [LG](#)  
SUBJECT: ZATLERS' GROWING COMFORT IN THE JOB

Classified By: Ambassador Charles W. Larson, Jr. Reason: 1.4 (d)

¶1. (C/NF) In our most recent meeting, I saw a President Zatlers more comfortable in his job, more confident in himself, and with more mastery of the issues. Accompanying General Brady, I was pleasantly surprised to see the President take charge of the meeting from the start. He articulated clearly what Latvia's security concerns are in the wake of events in Georgia, and clearly defined energy as a security issue for Latvia. He engaged the general on what Latvia needed from its allies and from NATO itself in terms of defense assistance, while articulating Latvia's responsibility for its own security. Most importantly, he clearly defined corruption as a threat to security in Latvia, recalled that NATO is an alliance based on common values, and stressed that Latvia must hold true to these values. It was very heartening to me to see such a strong performance from the President, whom I believe is committed to addressing these tough issues.

LARSON